

SENATE RESOLUTION 96
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to commend Master Chef José Gutierrez for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, José Gutierrez, Tennessee's only Master Chef, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born in Provence, France, as a descendant of the Hildago family of Spain, José started his career at the Professional Culinary School in Manosque, France; upon completion of the three-year traditional training period, he spent two years at the Hotel de France in the Jura under the direction of Chef Roger Petit, one year with Chef Francis Trocelier and a year in La Reserve de Beaulieu on the French Riviera; and

WHEREAS, Chef Gutierrez also trained with the creator of Nouvelle Cuisine, the celebrated Chef Paul Bocuse, before arriving in the United States at the age of 22 to become Chef de Cuisine at the Restaurant de France for The Meridien Hotel; in 1983, José arrived in Memphis joining The Peabody Hotel as Chef de Cuisine of Chez Phillippe; and

WHEREAS, a true genius with food, his tremendous creativity highlights his French heritage with a Southern tradition taste, that has come to be known as his world-famous Nouvelle Southern Cuisine; and

WHEREAS, Chef José Gutierrez has received a multitude of honors and awards, including the Award of Merit and Key to the City of Memphis; the DiRona Award; the Mobil Four Star Award, for fourteen consecutive years; *Memphis* magazine's Annual "Best Restaurant" Award; and *Restaurant & Institution* magazine's Ivy Award; and

WHEREAS, Chef Gutierrez was named a Master Chef in 1996 by Maitre Cuisinier de France; he was also named "America's Best New Chef" by *Food & Wine* magazine in 1990 and "Chef of the Century" by The American Academy of Hospitality and Sciences as well as receiving the Great American Chef Award from Sullivan University's National Center for Hospitality Studies; and

WHEREAS, Master Chef José Gutierrez has been featured in over 4,000 articles in newspapers and magazines, including *Food & Wine*, *Bon Appetit*, *Food Arts*, *Gourmet*, *Southern Living*, the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Chef* and *Esquire*; he has appeared on CNN, Discovery Channel's "Great Chefs" Series and TVFN's Cooking Live Primetime with Sara Molton as well as many local television programs; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in countless special cooking events, including "La Dame du siecle" Gala at the Ritz Carlton Monterey; Masters' Night series with Guests at Chez Phillipe; Baccus Society; Commenderie de Bordeaux; Chaîne des Rotisseurs Dinners; Tennessee Sportsman Dinner in Jackson, Tennessee; the Food and Wine Classic in Aspen, Colorado; *Food & Wine*'s Opening of Copia in Napa, California; and

WHEREAS, highly sought after by famous clients, Chef Gutierrez was a member of the Dream Team for Julia Child's 82nd Birthday Celebration and has prepared dishes for His Majesty Juan Carlos De Bourbon, King of Spain and Her Majesty Princess Nikita Romanof; and

WHEREAS, always open to helping others, he has served as Host Chef for "Team Nutrition" at Cummings Elementary, participated in the Dining Across America benefit for the

James Beard Foundation and the Southern Chefs Series benefit for Share Our Strength; he has also served as a consultant for Northwest Airlines as part of "America's Greatest Chefs"; and

WHEREAS, always in great demand for culinary and teaching events, Master Chef Gutierrez has performed cooking demonstrations at the Food & Wine Classic, Sea Island, Florida; Sullivan University, Louisville, Kentucky; Copia, Napa Valley; NRA Conference, Chicago; EveryDay Gourmet, Jackson, Mississippi; Viking Culinary Arts Centers, Memphis and Nashville and as a guest chef on Seagoddess Cruises; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2001, José Gutierrez became an American citizen, but has always been a true Southerner first and foremost and a highly respected member of the Memphis Community; and

WHEREAS, his deep commitment to his beloved new country has found him many times sharing his talents with the West Tennessee community to help charities raise funds through such events as the Jackson Symphony Legends Gala, the Leadership Dinner hosted by former Governor Ned McWherter and Senator Don McLeary; the West Tennessee Health Care Foundation Diane Odell Gala in Jackson, Tennessee; and Heartstrings - West Tennessee Cerebral Palsy Center in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Chef Gutierrez was the Founder of both Share Our Strength Taste of the Nation and Chefs and Chiefs for Chucalissa; his talents have helped support and benefit such charitable organizations as the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center and the March of Dimes in Memphis, Phoenix and New York City; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career, José Gutierrez, Tennessee's only Master Chef, has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Chef Gutierrez's remarkable success is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gutierrez is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, José Gutierrez is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Master Chef José Gutierrez for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.